

Sánchez. San Domingo. *contd*

✓
Mar. 29th 1922

Dr. C. W. Richmond

Dear Sir

I got back here last week from my trip
to the Barahona district in S. W. of the Republic. As regards song-
ing bird plants it was disappointing. Was there 2 months.
Much or most of the time in the Bahoruco Mts. 1500 - 4,000 ft.
up. [I saw nothing of the "thrush" I saw in the same range in
Haiti 2 years ago.] But [have got a pair of the solitair. am
not sure they are the same they get above Jacmel 40 years
ago. & they don't look quite like those collected in the Central Cor-
dillera. They were very common above 3000 feet, ~~near~~ Polo, but
as the males were not singing on our arrival there we could
get none at first - luckily just before our departure from Polo, they
commenced to sing & I got a pair -] & lastly shot.
Saw or heard nothing else of much account in the hills ^{11 miles} from Barahona
at Cabral is a large lake Rincón, of fresh water - surrounded by
vast red beds & marshes ^(thousands of acres) - by far the largest place of the sort in
the island. I had hoped for some kind of red or grass sparrow,
bunting, warbler or something or other. Nothing of the kind could be
found - [Plenty of Maryland yellow throats ⁽¹⁾ & other warblers, & no
small rails were seen. [The Sora rail was plentiful], [Florida &
Martinique gallinules, coots & jacanas were plentiful.] only ducks seen

Bahama pintails & lesser Blackheads.] Flamingos & spoonbills occur, & many black ibises. [However I flushed a short eared owl & got that. only one seen.] also [saw a marsh hawk twice, but not within range.] Both these species are new to the island. Down at Trujin, 43 miles Sout of Barahona is a large salt lagoon, which I heard was a great resort of birds, but there were not many when we were there in March. [I had the misfortune to kill 3 ♀ flamingoes at one shot, I did not want but one, however I skinned them all & they kept very well.] also saw a flock of spoonbills, but always out of range. Both species are said to breed there at south end of lagoon.] It was a brackish and region - only drinkable water & that salty, came from ^{one} a cave, & we landed in another cave when the water was still saltier (?) only saw one nightjar the whole trip & heard none. Did not get to Beata Id. as it was too late to get there in boat - think November wd. be best for Beata.

Am going next week to San Francisco Macoris in the Eastern Cibao, near foot of Northern range. It is about 40 miles from here by R.R. & I will take mules from there to the Quita Espuña, the highest mt. in the Northern ^{range of} mts. It is 3,500 ft. about - that district is said to be the best place to find Don Juans (Nyctibius) - so let us hope it may pan out something good. Any time the top of the mountain is said to have good plants & nobody has ever been there. The results of ^{trip in} ~~the~~ ^{4 cases} ~~there~~ went get shipped for about 2 weeks, so it will be some time before they can arrive in Washington. Expect to stay down until June. Hoping you are well Yours truly W. L. Abbott.

A.W.

400 South 15th St Philadelphia.

June 2^d 1921 ✓

Dear Richmond

Your letter informing me of the arrival
of the cases came this A.M. and I know what that
nightjar seems to be. Anyhow it is not Siphonorhis albus
its nostrils look tubular some -

I forgot about the 2 grasshopper sparrows - They were for
Acad. of Nat. Sciences - If you could send them on then -
I will be much obliged.
There is a pretty good series of them birds -

Rich longicora came from the Eastern Cities in January.

I expect to sail for Norway June 17th & stay until
September - when I hope to return & go back to San Domingo.
I may come down to Washington next week about Wednesday or
Thursday - & hope to see you then -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. You will notice that the Oedicnemus is larger than the
ones originally described - These are probably ♀ -

Sanchez. S.D. Mar. 12 - 1921

cont'd

Dear Doctor

I suppose you are waiting to hear of the great
discovery of this trip. Well don't expect too much. Have only a
few skins so far - 30 or so - but they are pretty good ones.
Got back here from 2 months up in the Cibao country.
[I completely failed to find Calyptophilus near Almacen, where Frazer
discovered it in 1883. We did see one above Cotui, but failed to get it.
Can only find 2 birds peculiar to the Savanna region - The Savanna
Sparrow, of which I got a good series - it is very common, & [the "Boutin
"BouKera" (Odicorhynchus dom.) which is not scarce. I shot 4
& saw a good many. But put off getting more until I got beyond
Santiago - when I never saw it -]
[In the And region, saw but few birds - nothing new - Laniocera nana
occurs -] and [I shot a ^(11-12 inches long) Goatsucker, which may be nothing but a
Chuck will's widow - but it appears to my defective vision to have
tubular nostrils. First I thought I had Microsiphonius (Beck's bird).
but this is much smaller wing 139 ^{mine} m., ~~mine~~ is 170 m. (wing)
& there are no tubular filaments to the strong ventral bristles, as I be-
lieve Chuck will's has. It was sitting on branch near ground in dense
jungle near Mao - in the And region - my boy John King spotted it.
I think there were a pair, but I never saw the other after I shot.
The tubular nostrils are not what I expected, seem upward & small.
Still unless a Chuck will's has something of that sort it must be
an approach of Siphornis of Jamaica.] Don't expect too much until
you see it, as I am too blind to see distinctly.

I am keeping birdskins & dried plants until I come up myself in
a couple of months - (Stiff tailed duck)

[Has seen a Nomony & don - It flew all around me when without
a gun one morning. Could not find it again ^(4 miles from camp)
[a week ago today, was on hill above Novarite near Santiago, & a
good many big swifts were flying slow & low over the ridge, but I had no
gun - never had such a chance at them ^{before}. Slopes were freshly cleared of
brush - next morning I went back with gun, but there were no
swifts.]

Sent a box of living cacti up to Dr. Rose & by steamer yester-
day - but holding most of stuff back. It is raining in torrents every
day - especially mornings - has done so ever since I came down
in November, except while I was in the dry zone.

[A guardia officer told me of a queer ground dove he met with
on North coast ^{west} East of Cape Isabel - Can't form any idea what it was.
Seemed a little like Beck's new pigeon.]

Am going to Samana tomorrow & go out into the small and distinct
new Cape Samana, have never investigated it thoroughly -
Flowers an absolutely non-existent henclerk - only an ultra luxuriance
of green beans -

Hope you keep well -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. [Don't expect too much of that old night hawk until you see it -
The Dominican name is "Pitangua" - (Peetangwah)]

also Dominican name of *Dulus dominicanus* is "Siguá"

2^d P.S. Has got something rather good for Hough's depth (Seegwa) Seegwa
not "Sigura"

✓

Port au Prince - Hayti. *contd.*

Dear Doctor Richards May 19 - 1920

We are back here & have 4 cases ready
for shipment tomorrow - They won't get off for several days
however - 3 cases botanical specimens & one case birds -
I have more birds including Gorman collection here, not ready
for shipment. This box which is going up this time has no plants
in it only birds & skeletons it is #4.

[It contains the Great Ornithological discovery of the trip -
a new wren bird - This explains Bartels' gorgonius oriole -
which he did not see - Keep discovery secret until you
get specimens & get it described if new - nests also sent
too early for eggs. The bird lives in colonies on Thorn trees in
plain of the Cul de Sac - Saw only one large colony - but several
old ones. The ♂ is 175 mm. long - ♀ 165. Head black, nape brown
^{mixed with black on wings & shoulders} -
brownish yellow throat, yellow breast streaked with reddish (maroon on
sides - I saw Semipuffins] [On one occasion I
saw a new thrush at 6000 ft - no green - size of robin, black
head - yellow bill - deep brown sides, white belly ascending to a point
on breast. Returned 3 times to same place with gun - but saw no
trace of stranger - evidently this southern peninsula of Hayti &
San Domingo has some green now stuff] - [Heard lots of Nyctibius
but saw none -]

We remain until last of June when I will bring up most of
birds - Leonard has worked very hard & has a big collection of

2) Plants - [It was he who first saw the new wren bird which
please name after him if it proves new.] I can tell
you a lot more about it & its habits. What is it? Is it an
African ^{immigrant} ~~introduction~~? You will see ~~it~~ through the my story -
Am sorry I cant get all the birds into this shipment, but
the others will keep - The cases will be shipped by Panama
R.R. Steamship line in a week or so -

Hope you are keeping fit - we can talk well - I lost my
gun - ~~tell~~ ~~forget~~ it in sail not train, but I have another
in reserve as it is no matter -

Yours very truly

Wm W. L. Abbott

P.S. Keep rum about that bird - It is too easy accessible
from Port au Prince to take any chance of another fellow
getting it & destroying it - Also when Describd do not mention place when
found - Just say Caribbean Hayti - I do not want the
colonies wiped out by bird collectors, which could easily be done.
Don't tell anybody the type locality - cut off the birds.

St. Marc. Hayti. ^{arrived}
Mar 23^d 1920

Dear Richmond

News of Mar. 17th was before our return from Gonave Island yesterday. Glad these films were sent down, they are doubtless awaiting our return to Port au Prince. It is not easy to develop photos here. In Gonave Islands water was very scarce & far away. Local photographers seem non-existent here, though plentiful in San Domingo. I have not added much to the avifauna of Gonave Island. [about a ♀ yellow-billed woodpecker. Barely fat, & only shot it male - poor specimen. It was 213^{mm.} long, & has a large black spot on breast. No others seen or heard.] Apparently Gonave was once covered with magnificent forest. Now totally destroyed in the fertile uplands - which are now open grass land. A small scrap of "forest" exists at Grand Source, or rather did, for it was mostly cut down in last few weeks.

[The Haytian copper rail has materialized, & [the yellow warbler is plentiful]. Did not see a single calyptophilus, & [no parrot ^{seen}] Leonard has done pretty well on the plants. Saw nothing of Lemnos malabis - scarcely any palms except may be bird has ceased to sing. But did not almost see anything like the old one I had - It was a big tree.

2) We are now going up the hills above St. Marc, a few hours distant for 10 days or so, upon returning to Port au Prince. Have no expectations in the bird line at this ^{bird} next place.

got about 100⁺ skins at Bonav & think I never want to return there - Thos Leonard thought it the nicest place he ever saw. It was his first camp - & then an old white man went down the place. But it is not a nice place. It is excessively dry here - not much rain for 3 years. but main trouble this past trip, was the drunken cook &c. in our party. one can't do much without proper servants. We won't ship anything home until we return to Port au Prince - 2 - 3 weeks hence.

Hope you Rep well -

Yours very truly
W. L. Abbott

A.W.

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

Nov 2-1919

Dear Richard

Fri. of 31st Oct. main).

^{O.R.}
The tin of insects which came in last equipment was collected near Somana — last spring. at any rate Somana Peninsula somewhere — That is not a large area.

I am failing as well but I am awfully sorry that I came back without doing the Baratina district. Especially as I had abundant supplies of collecting stuff etc. I had a lot of timber putting my gun & cartridges into San Don. The mil. authorities held them up 8 days — & if I had not applied to Mr. Russell (American Minister) — they would be holding them still, altho they (mil. authorities) knew I was for Smithsonian.

They are damned fools — anyhow the "Caballeros" (Bandits?) get ammunition somehow & our own countrymen are suspected. as a matter of fact I threw 500 cartridges into the sea,^{deep water} when I left as I did not want them used in destroying bird life.

Fri. my baby
W. L. Wood

Sanchez. ^{contd.} San Domingo.

Rep. 2nd 1919

Dear Richmond

Clyde

S.S.C.

I delivered 2 boxes to agents of
today addressed to Museum & to be sent by earliest avail-
able steamer - That will be about 10 - 12 days hence.
to New York.

It is a poor lot of stuff. I went first to Sosua
17 miles east of Puerto Plata & staid there 10 days with Morris
Peters, the uncle of the young man who collected there 3 years ago.
The ^{neighboring} country was open grass land & sugar cane, abandoned banana
cultivation - The place still belongs to United Fruit Co.

[Limpkin (*Aramus pictus*) were very common & I shot a number.
^(possibly 2♂ & 1♀) The ♂'s have a queer conformation of the trachea - convolutions like
a crane - They have a very loud call. Ku-ráu, Ku-ráu,
whence their Dominican name. Sent several dry presps. of trachea,
& one wet. I would have sent whole bird in name, but had
no container & no name.]

[^{Paradise} ~~finches~~ were my plentiful] Birds generally scarce & the
probably all former forest land, in spite of the large stretches of grass land now existing.
Savanna sparrow was wanting. The man who accompanied Peters
said it occurred near Cape Cabra.

There is a large lagoon west of Sosua, but we did not succeed in
reaching it - Jungle has grown up thick - Birds are said to be scarce
upon lagoon. Iguanas said to occur

2) [at Sosua, called up a Lawnice nana close to me, but had no gun at time. in thick scrub, saw more afterwards there -
Port Rincon
Hav since shot one near Cape Cabras on North coast Samana peninsula - a miserable little bird in poor pin feathered plumage.
It was also in thick jungle & we saw no others, so they can't be common.] [I find Spinolais multicolor is not uncommon ~~on~~
the Pilon d'aguacar, & North of Samana peninsula.]
altogether hav' but few birds pr' you so far. [Picumnus laemmeri
is very common here but, but very hard to see. Here is a good series.]

Expect to leave in 5 days for La Romana on South Coast of San Domingo, & visit Catalina & Saona Islands. afterwards probably Lake Enriquillo & possibly Beata Island. My Samana boy John King goes with me - & I have plenty of supplies with me. The Saona is said to be very nice & fresh water lagoon abounding in birds, also mosquitos.

There are no plants or plant material in these boxes. #2 box is full of pottery packed in newspaper & excelsior (shaving) from the U.S.A. Both boxes are sewn up in gunny bags, (cacao sacks) as they are only Kerosene boxes & rather weak. Hope there will be no trouble about entrance of these this lot.

Am rather anticipating Saona, especially the water birds. I notice the waters are beginning to arrive along the shore here.

Yours truly W. L. Abbott.

Porto Plata. San Domingo.

✓

Dear Richmond

July 18th 1919

Yours of July 8th reached me on board
of "Progeny" at time of sailing. [about the egg of Tyto Glau-
copis" I am not at all sure, it may be a parrakeet egg.
John King brought it to me saying he had got it out of a
hollow tree - he had seen the owl fly out of this hollow & he
cut the tree down. But the egg was rotten when I got it a week
afterwards. It might well have been a parrakeet's egg as they
nest in similar places. The "Vireo's" eggs were brought to me,
& the nest looked like a Vireo's. But I am not at all sure
the eggs belonged in that nest. I really do not trust what
any native says about eggs or anything else, & too much
reliance should not be put in any of my identifications
^{myself get} unless I ^a ~~know~~ the particular bird.

My gun & cartridges are held up here by a military, but I will
get them in a day or two. I have a spare gun & more
cartridges at Sanchez. am going out to Sosua, 16 miles east,
tomorrow. Peters collected there 3 years ago. There is a lagoon
of fresh water there & I am hoping for water birds.

Will probably go on to Sanchez by rail in a couple of weeks &
will most likely go to Jovaro, on back side Samana Bay & look

2/ for water birds in a lagoon (brack water?) lagoon there.

It has a bad reputation for mosquitoes - & Saona & Catalina
is land, which I hope to visit later on said to be simply
uninhabitable, but am said to abound with bird life -

"He who lives will learn?" -

Things are reported to be in a very disturbed state over in
Honduras, but it is impossible to get at the real state of affairs
& it probably won't affect my collecting work ^{any} ~~badly~~.

Hope Raum got his outfit together in time & has made a
good start. Weather is beautiful down here, & I am awfully
glad to be down in the tropics again. Three weeks in the big
eastern cities is long enough for me, & too much to -
will be very careful in future about transmitting any
vegetable material, you may be sure.

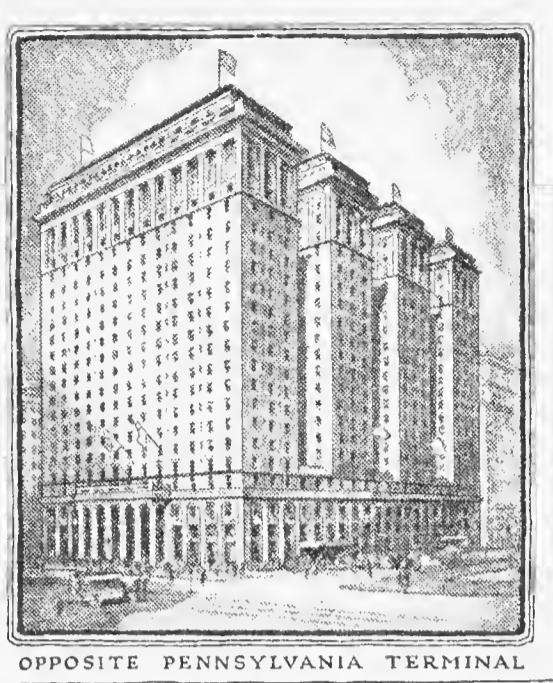
Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

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July 8th 1919

Dear Richmond

Your letter arrived
the arrival of the boxes came several days
since - Am sorry there was a devil of a
time getting them. Of course I knew nothing
about the new plant regulation, & hence
thought it only applied to live plants.
If this ruling applies to all vegetable
products the law will be unworkable, for
all coffee, cocoa, coco nut, beans, can-
dye woods will have to be禁ished -
all the 2000 or having trouble over the
last forbidding introduction of dead animals
& makes quarantine impossible after
any shipping.

24
Leave the Great Britain or Cape Colony.
The Steamer is expected to sail to

morning aft. one has to show tax or-
ceift before being allowed to land, & if an
alien, must pay tax on his income
for this past half year. A large ~~one~~^{string}
of Dagos etc., are lined up at the Custo-
house this a.m. American citizens are

at home quickly however.

This prohibition business is going to in-
crease foreign trade, that is it will as
soon as normal customs return, if that
is in the near by. San Domingo will not be
a popular resort, as there are no hotels
until specially fit, & the Clyde Steamers are
rotten bad - It will soon Cuba however.

Yours very truly

W.L. Abbott

P.S. I will take jolly good care of those not
to my plants wife looks after

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

July 4th 19.

Dear Richard

The permit for guns etc. came all right - Thanks for getting it for me. The steamer is expected to sail Wednesday night. (July 9th) - Hope the traps have turned up O.K. If they arrive before my departure, drop me a line what you think of the contents. I am going to New York early Tuesday, but anything addressed to me

Passenger Trunks
S.S. Progress Can Clyde Saint Domingo Line
Pier 34. Brooklyn N.Y.

also add Please forward to Sanchez S.D. if steamer has sailed.
will nach me up to time of sailing.

We are surely getting it hot. quite like S.D. in summer, but minus the sea breeze & cool nights of the west Indies.

Your suggestions on night jars are most interesting - Can a cane gun be got ~~got~~? or are things still too abnormal?

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. My address will be Sanchez. S.D.

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

July 1st 19.

Dear Richmond

That permit has not turned up yet. Am afraid I shall miss the steamer which sails on the 9th. That means a loss of 2 weeks collecting. Please tell them I send ^{permit} to his address & not to alline Hshl.

Am enclosing 2 letters from Kloss, please pass them on to Miller. They need not be returned to me.

Yours truly

W. L. Abbott



ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

OTTO E. HANSEN

June 19th 19.

Dear Richmond

Your letter & passport just received - The passport business is O.K. The old one having just been returned to me unpaid for 6 months -

Hope the trees will arrive soon upon the orchid are all dead - There was one gorgeous ~~the species~~.

The paper by Kloss & Robinson on the birds of Samoa is quite an elaborate affair. They did not get much that was certainly new.

My steamer (*Iroquois*) is expected to sail July 9th & I am very anxious about her S.D. is better than this -

Yours truly
W.L. Abbott

Aldine Hotel,

Philadelphia,

June 14th 1919.

Dear Richmond

I landed today at Brooklyn & turned 4 cases of specimens (kerosene boxes) over to the Customs on the pier for shipment to Museum. They were taken to Warehouses corded & sealed. One box had got broken on voyage but think nothing was lost.

Please communicate with proper authorities as soon as possible for the cases to be transhipped to Washington. There are some epiphytes in one case (orchids and tillandsias) still living--as they are from high elevations they may prove interesting. Am writing to Dept. of State to get my passport renewed. I want to go back to S.D. in less than 3 weeks. It might help to get your corresp. dept. jog the dept. of State on the subject. Also I want to take some more ammunition down to San Domingo with me. I will need ~~new~~ permit from State (or War Dept.)

(same as before)

to take 500 12 bore shot cartridges

500 320 bore shot cartridges for aux.

one 12 bore shot gun

one aux. barrel

You will find many things to please you in this last lot--but nothing new.

[montane?]

I got one *Microtigea palustris* & one pair of *Oreopeltia leucometopon*.

Will come down to Washington after the 4 boxes arrive--about June 17th or 18th.

Hope you keep fit.

Yours very truly

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

P.S. I am just wild to get back to S.D. and do the islands on s. coast and the lakes & Mt. de Selle region.

~~cord~~ Constanza. San Domingo.

May 11th 1919. ✓

Ira Doctor

Yours of Mar. 8th re the proposed New

Guinea collecting reached me several weeks since. I don't think I care about doing anything in the matter. Everything is so unsettled & uncertain & the income taxes damnable, if necessary, so I don't want to commit myself to additional expenses until I know just where I stand in the world.

This trip has turned out next door to failure. No mammals & no new birds - Couldnt find any of Beck's 3 birds except the ground dove, of which I got a pair. They were very scarce when I was, ^{are} not common here. [Hav ~~seen~~ seen a ^{straight} good many of the big swift & missed some shots at them. Saw a lot this a.m. - too high.] No cassibille so far. Return to El Rio tomorrow when I first passed there 3 years since. Expect to return to New York next month.

The climate & country are perfectly beautiful - strangely like Kashmir on the S. side of the divide. of course no snow here -
Hope the 3 boxes shipped early in April have long since arrived.

Best wishes

Yours truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. [I saw or heard some nightjars over in the Rio Grande Valley, including Nyctibius but got none]. However have got a few odd species.

A.W.

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

May 3^d - 1918

Dear Doctor

I landed yesterday from Hayti. Was a month in Marine Hospital at Port au Prince with amoebic dysentery & my neck crooked. Am still bothered with diarrhea, but picking up slowly. I shipped 2 cons from St. Marc - Hayti, by Panama S.S. Line just upon going into hospital - addressed to Collector Port of N.Y. & while I was in hospital the 3 boxes I left at Jerome were sent to Port au Prince & then ~~shipped~~ ^{sent} by Collector New on St. Marc, & they were shipped on Panama S.S. to N.Y., that would be about one month ago.

Hope the 5th cases have reached you on this. If they have not they must be in N.Y. somewhere - as they were addressed in care of Collector, etc. I hear that the Grand Saline near Gonais is a very good place for water birds - Flamingos etc. The ^{late} collector there, a Louisiana man, said he scarcely ever saw so many ducks, evidently the restriction of arms by the Americans is making the birds increase - that the birds on Gonais Island will present something new. There is more life there.

Wishing you all well Yours very truly
P.S. what is her date paid due from

Sanchez, San Domingo.

April 1st 1919

✓
Sanchez

Dear Richmond

I am leaving 4 boxes (kerosene cases) of specimens here to be shipped to New York by the first available steamer--Probably the "Huron" in about 10 daytime. [The eggs of the "Sigura" (Dulus dominicensis) are there at last. one occupied nest with 4 eggs (spotted) & 5 (not yet used) nests were in a community house 25 feet from ground in a royal palm.] [Also 2 eggs of Geotrygon montana (ruddy grd. dove) which proves not to nest on the ground at all, but on a bunch of "wild pineapple" (Tillandsia) 6-8 feet from ~~the~~ ground on the trunk of a good sized tree. Saw several nests all in same situation-- This is a good discovery as the habit may serve to preserve the bird from extermination by the rapidly spreading mongoose.] Am hoping to leave for the interior on the 3d. Two Samana boys go with me as I dont speak Spanish--One, John King, was up with me to Constanza 2 1/2 years ago & is glad to go again, as he has a nagging wife who is making his home hot for him--she is an ugly cross grained bitch, half Indian, half Spanish--Hope to put in 2 months in the mountains, will probably make Constanza my headquarters & radiate out. Will try to do the highest possible levels & ought to find a god many new nesting species at this season.

[Am sending a pair of frigates & some eggs. They are nesting on Pelican Island, south shore of Samana Bay]--Pelicans are not nesting yet. [Saw one booby on the mid channel buoy, but did not have gun available.] But so far have not done much. Lots of species like C. inornata & squamosa are nesting, but cant find the nests. Corvus leucognaphalus is preparing (I think) but not yet nesting--They & [the little paroquet Aratinga used to be very common here at Sanchez, both are now unknown here. Old men tell me that when they were boys, they had to watch the maize fields here in Samana with a gun against the vast flocks of Aratinga--They are now absent from this section tho still common in the interior. The Doctor here tells me he saw them last week on N. E. coast near Matanzas.] The common parrot (Amazona) is still common as it does not depredate on the maize fields.

[The yellow-billed cuckoo has been fairly common during the last few weeks]--There is not much for Miller except 3 kinds of bats, & a few

more bones & teeth of the elusive Plagiodontia--which many people ~~assu~~
assure me is still common (or rare) on the south shores of Samana
Bay, near Savanna la Mar & Jovéro--

Hoping you are well & that this lot of stuff will arrive all
right

Yours very Truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. Dr. Vaughan (geologist) is passing today on the "Huron". He
is going to S. Domingo City.

R.W.

Feb. 14th 1918

✓ Jeremie, Hayti.

Dear Richmond:

I wrote you yesterday saying I hoped to get off the 3 cases of specimens by the "Prins der Nederlands", but the Captain positively refused to take any thing whatever from Hayti. So I am leaving the cases behind at the Custom house here to send at earliest opportunity, that may be 2 weeks or 3 months. The Collector, Mr. Robin, says he will get them off when he can. He is American. I cant take the cases with me to Port au Prince. I have only a small open sail boat, already full of my luggage & gear. It rains frequently & everything will get soaking wet, & the voyage of 120 miles to windward, will take 2 or 3 weeks, including stop in Gonave Island. Probably a most wretched & miserable trip. I wish it was over. So it seems best to take chances (very uncertain) of the cases going from here. There are no steamers calling here on north bound voyage. But some shipments for N. Y. are made on southward (outward) voyage. Anyhow cant do any better. The trouble is the Collector & the other chaps will probably forget all about it. The agent here will not take delivery for shipment, as I have always done elsewhere. So the Collector in N. Y. had better be notified to be ready to receive the cases whatever vessel they may come by.

The 3 cases are marked as usual

U.S. National Museum

Care Collector Port of New York

Like everywhere else everything is completely upset & disorganized owing to the war.

Hope everything will eventually turn up.

Yours truly

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

Orig. filed with
acc. papers

*Brevil note
absent*



Jérémie, Hayti. Feb. 12th 1918

Dear Richmond:

I expect to leave here for Port au Prince on the 14th by small sail boat & touch at Gonave Island en route. Ought to be 2 or 3 weeks on the way as the wind is usually ahead. I am leaving 3 cases to be shipped to the Museum by first available steamer. One may be here in a few days bound south, but few vessels touch here on north bound voyage. I don't wish to risk taking the specimens in small boat with me. There are abt. 200 skins & some skeletons belonging to abt. 55 species. Nothing new or much good. 2 skeletons (both ♂) of pelicans. I can't get ♀ somehow or other. [The last attempt to reach mts. of La Hotte ended in failure. I did not reach over 3,000 feet. A most lovely district called Moline. Coffee right to the summits. One of my boys got sick, & I sent him back to Jérémie where he died a few days after. The other boy got fever pretty bad. I also had some fever.

I found no hill birds except *Ricordia swainsoni* & *Todus angustirostris*. *Myiadestes* is not singing now & it was impossible to find it. Everybody in the hills knew it under name "La musician." Heard many "Chat huant" in dense broken jungle country in the 4^{en} section. Too dense to see anything. Don't know if it was *Nyctibius* or *Micrsiphonoris*. It was lovely up in the hills only for the fever. I find the right way to reach La Hotte is to march 9 miles east of Jérémie to Rossau, then up the river of Rossau to the quartier called "Catineau." This includes the north slope of La Hotte. I doubt if La Hotte is much over 5,000. I was on the hill above Moline at 3,000 (or a little more) & it was 8 miles across intervening valley "Catineau" to La Hotte. Certainly it was not 2,000 feet higher. It seems to be covered with pines. Some pine forest at Moline. It wd. be best to visit the high lands in June (Summer) when "La Musician" is singing.

I had a very pleasant camp at Moline at 2000 feet, by a clear cold river, opposite the little R.C. church. Plenty to eat, chickens, eggs, sweet potatoes, yams, milk etc. & everybody most friendly.] Am now living in hopes of Gonave Island. Cant find any body who has ever been there. It is very dry (few springs of fresh water)--soil very fertile & much good Guaiac (*Lignum vitae*).

Hope these 3 cases will eventually reach you via New York all

right. It is not exactly a rotten lot, there is a little good stuff in it. The Agouti did not materialize. I cant find anybody who has ever actually seen the animal.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

P.S. Think I shall be coming home in March, so dont write any more here unless you hear from me. Address 400 South 15th St. Philadelphia. Feb. 13th. The Dutch S.S. "Prince Van der Nederlands" is due here this afternoon, but will not take any cargo. I am going off to see Capt. or Purser & see if they wont take the 3 cases.

Orig. filed with
acc. papers

Q.W.



OTTO E. HANSEN

ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

Sep. 2^d 1919

Dear Doctor

Yours of July 13rd & 18th
reached me 2 days ago. Having been returned
from Hayti. I returned to this country
4 weeks ago. was not in good shape, my
prostate was troublesome with occasional
uncontrolled haemorrhages - so I had to come
back. It is an enlarged middle lobe, which
though small is troublesome as it directly
projects into the urethra. nothing else was
visible by the Cystoscope. so the mid. lobe
was cauterized with elect. cautery. & I am
now better. An announcement came yes-
terday that the 2 cases shipped July 3^d-
had arrived. (was much interested in the
act. of Beck's new bird - He got into the south
in mountains where I wanted to go the past
June - But could not owing to the war.)

2/ It is about impossible for me to do any
nat. hist. work until the war is over, except
as a side show - I would have seen the
Tiburon peninsula (the S.W. of Hayti) the
last 3 months - had the war not come -
The fauna is sufficient now as we already know,
completely cut off from the rest of the island
by the "Plaine des cul de sac" at Port au Prince,
& the chain of lakes -
about the "yellow warbler" - I shot a pair in
mangroves at Port à l'Eau not long before
leaving - They may be in the last shipment, or
they may have got lost.

I am going up into the hills of Pennsylvania
this week, looking for "time", which means
a couple of thousand acres of wild land.
There will be ready to go "somewhere" -
which may mean Hayti or S. America.
of course Yours truly is out of military
service & probably medic service too -
Will you be in Washington next week
(Sep 9-16th)? I may run down further

3/^{wire} day - ~~to~~^A Miller be there yet?

I am very much ashamed of the poor results of the mammals - But one can't get what does not exist.

The shell traps passed out nothing at all. Sorry that I did not get more Accipiter striatus - Caught up a nice pair, only a day or two before I left. Unfortunately had no gun - Never saw any Buffalo here in summer at least in lowlands.

Doubt there a Macaw exists - No one has ever ~~seen~~ it, & it is such a conspicuous bird - Never on a number more ^{new} birds tomorrow - not in the N.W. however. In the S.W. undoubtedly, waiting for somebody.

Hope you are well

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott



ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

OTTO E. HANSEN

COPY.

Jarabacoa: San Domingo.

Oct. 13, 1916.

Dear Richmond:-

Was glad to get your letter about Raven's stuff. He did not seem to get anything new however. I am returning from the highlands of San Domingo and ^{a very} beautiful country it is. Knot pine forests covering the mountains. Splendid climate. Have got at least two new? birds. One (one specimen) a large blackish owl (440 mm. long) with small head and long ear tufts., and [a white winged crossbill. This last (one pair only) is doubtless common though I actually saw no others. I had heard of a very small "parrot" which lived in flocks in the pines on the pine cones. I suspected a crossbill--said to occur about here at Jarabacoa, below 2,000 feet, but the pair I shot were at near 5,000 feet.] Have not got the Myiedestes, though we often heard them. Am going on back to Sanchez in a few days, and expect to take steamer for New York in about three weeks or less. Will bring specimens back with me. Mammals have been a failure. Neither the "Juvon" Solenodon, nor the "Hutia" Plagiodontia, are anything like extinct, but I never had the luck to get any or has any one caught any for me. They seem generally distributed and the mongoose does not seem to destroy them (nor rats either)--a few bats and introduced rats are all I have got. Am getting some Indian stuff, fragmentary pottery, stone tomahawks etc. Hope the first stuff I sent you a month ago has arrived all right.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.